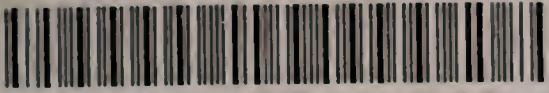


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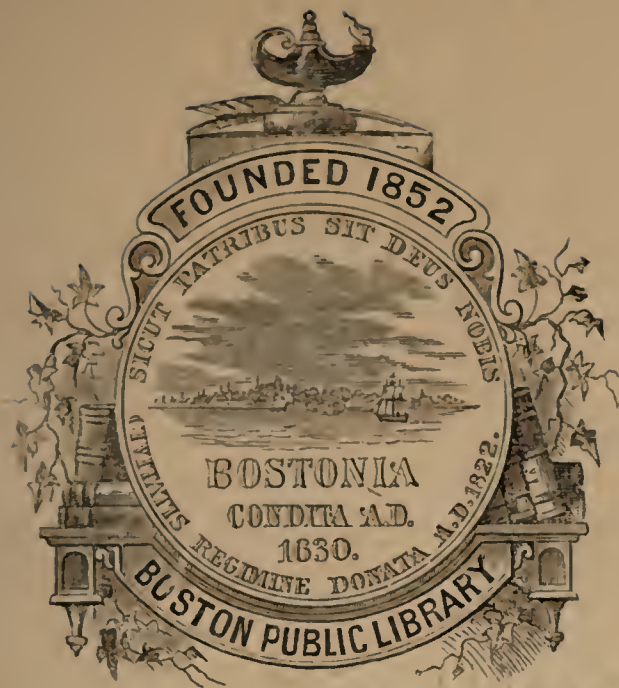
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GUIDE
THROUGH NANTANT:

CONTAINING A DESCRIPTION OF

SWALLOW'S CAVE, IRENE'S GROTTTO, PULPIT ROCK,
CASTLE ROCK, EGG ROCK, AND OTHER
ROMANTIC PLACES:

WITH AN ACCOUNT OF

THE FIRST INHABITANTS, ETC. ETC.

BY ALONZO LEWIS,

AUTHOR OF "THE HISTORY OF LYNN," "FOREST FLOWERS," ETC. ETC.

LYNN:
THOMAS HERBERT.
1851.

THE

PICTURE OF NAHANT.



BY ALONZO LEWIS.

LYNN:
PRINTED BY J. B. TOLMAN, No. 12 EXCHANGE STREET.
1848.

2524

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PICTURE OF NAHANT.

And thus they wandered forth, and hand in hand,
Over the shining pebbles and the shells,
Glided along the smooth and hardened sand,
And in the worn and wild receptacles worked by the storm.

BYRON.

NAHANT has long been celebrated as the most pleasant and delightful watering place on the coast of North America. It is a peninsula, on the south of Lynn, projecting into the ocean, between the cities of Salem and Boston. It consists of two islands, connected together by a beach half a mile in length, and united to the town of Lynn by another beach, nearly two miles in length. Nahant is the original Indian name of the place, from the word *Nahanteu*, signifying two united, or twins—a name peculiarly appropriate.

Great Nahant is two miles in length, and about half a mile in breadth, containing five hundred acres; and is six and one quarter miles in circumference. It is surrounded by steep, craggy cliffs, rising from twenty to sixty feet above the tide, with a considerable depth of water below. The rocks present a great variety of color—white, green, blue, red, purple, and gray—and in some places very black and shining, having the appearance of iron. The cliffs are pierced by many deep fissures, caverns, and grottoes; and between these are numerous coves, and beaches of fine shining, silvery sand, crowned by ridges of various colored pebbles, interspersed with sea-shells. Above the cliffs, the promontory swells into mounds from sixty to ninety feet in height. There are many remarkable cliffs and caves around Nahant, which are very interesting to the lovers of natural curiosities.

The Swallows' Cave is a passage beneath a high cliff, on the southeastern part of Nahant. The entrance is eight feet high and ten wide. Inside it is fourteen feet wide, and nearly twenty feet in height. Towards the centre it becomes narrower, and, at the distance of seventy-two feet, opens into the sea. It may be en-

tered about half tide, and passing through, you may ascend to the height above, without returning through the cave. At high tide the water rushes through with great fury. The swallows formerly inhabited this cave in great numbers, and built their nests on the irregularities of the rocks above, but the multitude of visitors have frightened them mostly away.



SWALLOWS' CAVE.

Southward from the Swallows' Cave is Pea Island, an irregular rock, about twenty rods broad. It has some soil on it, on which the sea pea grows. It is united to the Swallows' Cliff by a little isthmus, or beach of sand, thirteen rods long.

Eastward from Pea Island are two long, low, black ledges, lying in the water, and covered at high tides, called the Shag Rocks. Several vessels have been wrecked on them.

Eastward from Swallows' Cave is Pulpit Rock—a vast block about thirty feet in height, and nearly twenty feet square, standing boldly out in the tide. On the top is an opening, forming a seat; but from the steepness of the rock on all sides, it is difficult of access. The upper portion of the rock has a striking resemblance to a pile of great books. This rock is so peculiarly unique in its situation and character, that if drawings were made of it from three sides, they would scarcely be supposed to represent the same object.

The Natural Bridge is near Pulpit Rock. It is a portion of the cliff forming an arch across a deep gorge, from which you look down upon the rocks and tide twenty feet below.

Passing from the Swallows' Cave along the rocks, near the edge of the water, to the western side of the same cliff, you come to Irene's Grotto—a tall arch, singularly grotesque and beautiful, leading to a large room in the rock. This one of the greatest curiosities on Nahant, and was formerly much more so, until sacrilegious hands broke down part of the roof above, to obtain stone for building.



IRENE'S GROTTTO.

Near East Point is a great gorge, overhung by a precipice on either side, called the Cauldron Cliff; in which, especially during great storms, the water boils with tremendous force and fury. On the right of this, descending another way, is the Roaring Cavern; having an aperture beneath the rock, through which you hear the roaring of the Cauldron Cliff.

On the northeastern side of Nahant, at the extremity of Cedar Point, is Castle Rock, an immense pile, bearing a strong resemblance to the ruins of an old castle. The battlements and buttresses are strongly outlined; and the square openings in the sides, especially when thrown into deep shadow, appear like doors, windows, and embrasures. Indeed the whole of Nahant has the appearance of a strongly fortified place.

Northwest from Castle Rock is the Spouting Horn. It is a winding fissure in the lower projecting bed of the cliff, in the form

of a horn, passing into a deep cavern under the rock. The water is driven through a tunnel, formed by two walls of rock, about one hundred feet, and is then forced into the cavern, from which it is spouted, with great violence, in foam and spray. In a great easterly storm, at half flood, when the tide is coming in with all its power, the water is driven into this opening with a force that seems to jar the foundation of the solid rock; and each wave makes a sound like subterranean thunder. The cliff rises abruptly forty feet above, but there is a good descent to the mouth of the tunnel.

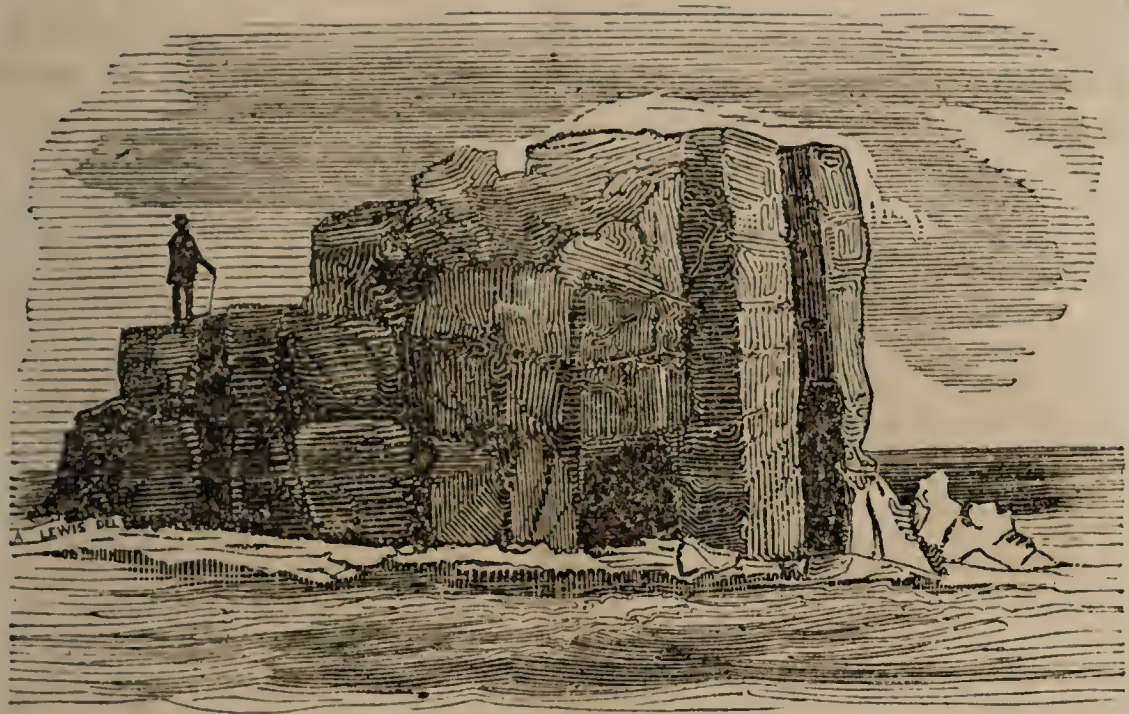


PULPIT ROCK.

Westward from the Spouting Horn is a large black ledge, called the Iron Mine, from its great resemblance to that mineral. It embraces a singular cavity, called the Dashing Rock.

At the Northwestern extremity of Nahant, is John's Peril, a vast fissure in the cliff, forty feet perpendicular. It received its name from the following anecdote; John Breed, one of the early inhabitants of Nahant, one day attempted to drive his team between a rock on the hill and this cliff. The passage being narrow and finding his team in great peril, he hastily unfastened his oxen; and the cart, falling down the precipice, was dashed in pieces on the rocks below.

In the Southern part of Nahant is a little lake of fresh water containing about eight acres, called Bear Pond. The high cliff beside it is called Bailey's Hill. The Western portion of Nahant is called Bass Neck.



CASTLE ROCK.

Directly in front of Nahant, at the distance of three-fourths of a mile on the east, is Egg Rock. It rises abruptly from the sea, eighty-six feet in height. Its shape is oval, being forty-five rods in length, and twelve in breadth, containing about three acres.—Near the summit is half an acre of excellent soil covered with rank grass. The gulls lay their eggs here in abundance, whence the rock derives its name. The approach to this rock is dangerous except in calm weather, and there is but one good landing place, which is on the western side. Its shape and colors are highly picturesque. Viewed from the north, it has the semblance of a couchant lion, lying out in front of the town, to protect it from the approach of a foreign enemy—meet emblem of the spirit which slumbers on our shores!

South of Nahant is a dangerous rock, covered at high tide, called Sunk Rock. On the western side, at the entrance of the harbor is a cluster of rocks, called the Lobster Rocks.

Little Nahant is one hundred and forty rods long, and seventy broad, containing forty acres. It is a hill consisting of two graceful elevations, rising eighty feet above the sea, and defended by great battlements of rock, from twenty to sixty feet in height. On the southern side are two deep gorges, called the Great and Little Furnace. Between these is Mary's Grotto, a spacious room, twenty-four feet square, and twenty in height, opening into

the sea. It was formerly completely roofed by a great arched rock; but some of those persons who have no veneration for the sublime works of Nature, have broken down a large portion of it. On the North side of Little Nahant is a fissure called the Wolf's Cave.

Little Nahant is connected to Great Nahant by Nahant Beach, which is somewhat more than half a mile in length, of great smoothness and beauty.



EGG ROCK.

Lynn Beach, which connects the Nahants to the main land, is two miles in length on the eastern side, and two and a half miles on the western. It is an isthmus, or causeway, of fine, shining, gray sand, forming a curve, and rising so high in the centre as generally to prevent the tide from passing over. On the western side it slopes to the harbor, and on the eastern side to the ocean. The ocean side is most beautiful, as here the tide flows out about thirty-three rods, leaving a smooth polished surface of compact sand, so hard that the horse's hoof scarcely makes a print, and the wheel passes without sound. It frequently retains sufficient lustre after the tide has left it, to give it the appearance of a mirror; and on a cloudy day, the traveller may see the perfect image of his horse reflected beneath, with the clouds below, and can easily imagine himself to be passing, like a spirit, through a world of shadows—a brightly mirrored emblem of his real existence!

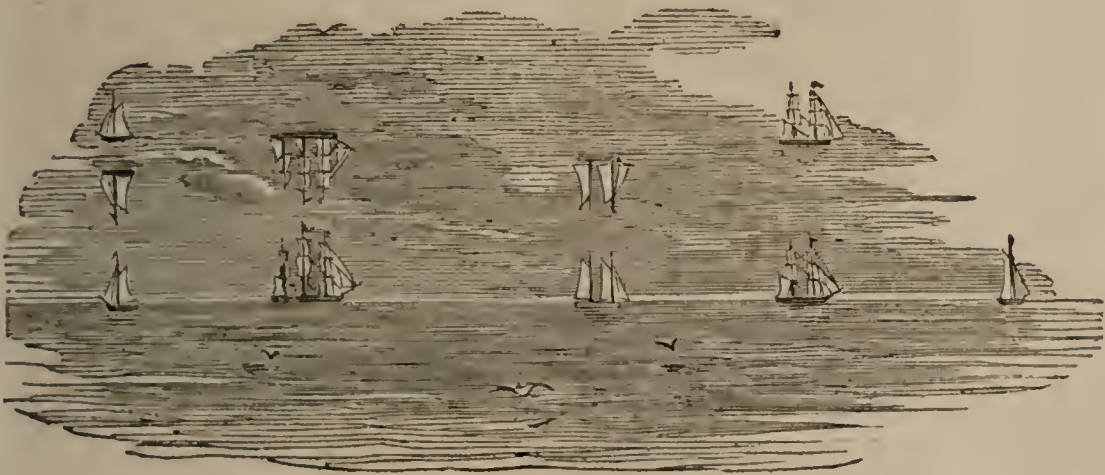
It is difficult—perhaps impossible, to convey to the mind of a reader who has never witnessed the prospect, an idea of the beauty and sublimity of this beach, and of the absolute magnificence of the surrounding scenery. A floor of sand, two miles in length, and more than nine hundred feet in breadth, at low tide bounded on two sides by the water and the sky, and presenting a surface so extensive that two millions of people might stand upon it, is certainly a view which the universe cannot parallel. This

beach is composed of moveable particles of sand, so small that two thousand of them would not make a grain as large as the head of a pin; yet these moveable atoms have withstood the whole immense power of the Atlantic ocean for centuries—perhaps from the creation!



SUNRISE ON THE WATER.

The unequal refraction of the atmosphere frequently occasions peculiar and curious appearances on the water. Sometimes the sun, when it rises through a dense atmosphere, appears elongated in its vertical diameter. Presently it appears double, the two parts being connected together by a neck. At length two suns are distinctly seen; the refracted sun appearing wholly above the water, before the true sun has risen.



THE PHANTOM SHIPS.

It was undoubtedly this effect of the mirage which occasioned the story of the Phantom Ship at New Haven, and the Flying Dutchman. On a pleasant Sunday afternoon, in the summer of 1843, I saw several vessels sailing off Nahant, reflected in the manner represented above. The atmosphere was dense, yet transparent, and there were several strata of thin vapory clouds lightly suspended over the water, on which the vessels were brightly mirrored. The refracted images were as clearly portrayed as the

real vessels beneath ; and a drawing can but imperfectly represent the exceeding beauty of the mirage.

The first positive knowledge we have of Nahant, is furnished us by Captain John Smith, who made a survey of the coast, in an open boat, in 1614. Proceeding westward from Salem, he says—"The next I can remember by name are the Mattahunts, two pleasant isles of groves, gardens, and cornfields, a league in the maine. The isles of Mattahunts are on the west side of this bay, where are many isles and some rocks, that appear a great height above the water, like the Pieramides of Egypt." By the Mattahunts, he probably meant the Nahants, which he named the "Fullerton Islands." His delineation of them on the map, though very small, is very correct.

In 1622, the Council in England granted "Nahaunte" to Captain Robert Gorges, who came over the next year and settled at Winnisimmet. The claim was afterward granted to John Oldham, but as no possession was taken by settlement, it was, in 1629, declared to be invalid.

At the time of the first settlement of Lynn in 1629, the Indians had possession of Nahant. The Sagamore, or chief, was Poquanum, who was called Black Will by the first white settlers at Lynn. In 1630 he sold Nahant to Thomas Dexter, a Lynn farmer for a suit of clothes. He had two children—Ahawayet, a daughter, who married Wenepoykin, the Lynn Sagamore—and Queakussen, who was called by the whites, Captain Tom. In 1633, Poquanum was killed at Richmond's Isle, near Portland, by some white men in revenge for the death of one Walter Bagnall, of which he seems to have been entirely innocent.

In 1629, the people of Lynn and Salem used Nahant as a pasture for their cattle, which were tended there, during the summer, by Robert Dixey. For many years Nahant was used as a sheep pasture. William Wood, who was here at the first settlement, says, "It is used for to put young cattle in, and weather Goates, and Swine, to secure them from the Woolves ; a few posts and rayles from the low water markes to the shore, keeps out the Woolves, and keepes in the cattle."

In the year 1634, on training day, Capt. Nathaniel Turner, who commanded the trained band at Lynn, was directed, by Col. John Humfrey, to go with his company to Nahant to hunt the wolves, by which it was then infested. This was doubtless regarded as very pleasant amusement for training day.

On the eleventh of January, 1635, "It was also voted, by the freemen of the towne, that these men underwritten, shall have liberty to plante and build at Nahant, and shall possess each man land for the said purpose, and proceeding in the trade of fishing, Mr. Humfreys, Daniel How, Mr. Ballard, Joseph Redknap, Tim-

othy Tomlins, Richard Walker, Thomas Talmage, Henry Feakes, Francis Dent." On the eighteenth of the same month. "It is ordered by the freemen of the towne, that all such persons as are assigned any land at Nahant, to further the trade of making fish that if they doe not proceed accordingly to forward the said trade, but either doe grow remiss, or else doe give it quiet over, that then all such lotts shall be forfeited again to the towne, to dispose of as shall be thought fitte."

In 1652, Wenepoykin, the Lynn Sagamore, mortgaged Nahant to Nicholas Davidson of Charlestown for twenty pounds sterling.

At a town meeting of the inhabitants of Lynn, held February 24, 1657, "It was voted, that Nahant should be laid out in planting lotts, and every householder should have equal in the dividing of it, noe man more than another, and every person to clear his lot of wood in six years, and he or they that doe not clear their lotts of the wood; shall pay fifty shillings for the towne's use. Alsoe every householder is to have his and their lotts for seven years and it is to be laid down for a pasture for the towne, and in the seventh, every one that hath improved his lott by planting, shall then, that is in the seventh year, sow their lott with English corne, (wheat,) and in every acre of land as they improve, they shall, with their English corne, sow one bushel of English hay seed, and soe proportionable to all the land that is improved, a bushel of hay seed to one acre of land, and it is to be remembered that noe person is to raise any kind of building at all."

On the passing of this order, Mr Thomas Dexter, who claimed from the old Nahant Sagamore, prosecuted the town of Lynn, but the court decided in favor of the defendants.

On the thirteenth of June, 1668, Robert Page of Boston was prosecuted "for settinge saille from Nahant, in his boate, being Loaden with wood, thereby Profaining the Lord's Daye."

In 1673 we find Robert Coates residing at Nahant as a fisherman and shepherd, by permission of the town. He removed in 1682, after which there was no inhabitant on Nahant until 1690. In that year, James Mills built a small cottage, about six rods southeast from Whitney's Hotel, where he resided twenty six years. A bay near the pond, having been the favorite bathing place of his daughter Dorothy, still bears the name of Dorothy's cove. In 1698, James Mills killed five foxes on Nahant. These animals appear to have been very numerous. Between the years 1698 and 1722, four hundred and twenty eight foxes were killed in Lynn and Nahant.

In 1688, Edward Randolph, Secretary of State, petitioned the Governor of Massachusetts, Sir Edmund Andros, to grant him Nahant; representing it as an unoccupied place, and a sort of *waif* which no one claimed. The inhabitants of Lynn defended

their right, which was settled by the deposition of Andros on the nineteenth of April 1689. On that day, the Lynn company marched to Boston, headed by Mr. Shepard, the minister !

In 1698, the town ordered that no person should cut more than seven trees on Nahant, under a penalty of forty shillings for each tree exceeding that number.

On the sixth of March 1704, the town, "being informed that several persons had cut down several trees or bushes in Nahants, whereby there is like to be no shade for the creatures," voted that no person should cut any tree or bush there under a penalty of ten shillings.

In the year 1706, a new division of lands was made at Nahant, under which the present proprietors claim.

In the great snow, in 1717, many deer came from the woods for food, and were killed by guns. Some, being chased by wolves, fled to Nahant, and, leaping into the sea, were drowned.

The summer of 1749 was exceedingly hot and dry. The grasshoppers were so numerous at Nahant, that the people walked together, with bushes in their hands, and drove them by thousands into the sea.

As late as the year 1803, there were but three houses on Nahant. The first was built by Samuel Breed, where Whitney's Hotel now stands. The second was built by Jabez Breed, who sold it to Richard Hood, and it is now occupied by his descendant, Mr Benjamin Hood. The third house was built by Jeremy Gray, uncle of the celebrated William Gray, Lieutenant Governor of Massachusetts, now occupied by Mr Caleb Johnson. In 1803, these three houses were occupied by members of the Society of Friends, who kept no hotels, but accommodated a few boarders, and occasionally made a fish chowder, for parties who visited Nahant from Boston and other places.

In 1800, a house was built on Bass Neck, by Capt. Joseph Johnson, which was burnt in 1803. It was afterwards rebuilt, and is now occupied by Wendell Phillips, Esq.

On the twentieth of September 1808, the lightning struck a flock of sheep at Nahant, and killed eighteen of them. On the thirtieth of July 1829, the lightning struck a barn, belonging to Mr Stephen Codman, and killed a carpenter named William Hogan.

As Nahant projects several miles into the sea, and is embattled by steep and rough crags, it is very dangerous in a storm, and many vessels have been wrecked upon it. In 1631, a vessel owned by Mr John Glover was lost here. In 1657, a vessel owned by Mr Thomas Wiggin of Portsmouth, went ashore on the Long Beach. A schooner was wrecked on Nahant in 1740. In the year 1757, two merchant ships from London, valued at one hun-

dred thousand pounds, were wrecked on Long Beach. In 1766 an English brig from Hull was stranded on Pond Beach. A sloop went ashore on Nahant in 1769. On the ninth of December, 1795; the Scottish brig Peggy was wrecked on Long Beach, and eleven men were drowned. A schooner went on this beach in 1827; and in 1828 another was wrecked on the Lobster Rocks. On the fifth of March 1829, a schooner, loaded with coffee, was broken to pieces on the Shag Rocks, and no trace was found of any of the crew. The brig Shamrock of Boston, with a cargo of sugar and molasses, was wrecked on Long Beach, on the seventeenth of December 1836; and on the seventeenth of March 1843 the schooner Thomas, of Belfast, was wrecked on the same beach, and five men were drowned, four of whom were masters of vessels.

In 1817, a singular marine animal, called the Sea Sepent, is said to have made its appearance in the waters of Gloucester harbor. In 1819, it is said, it was seen off Nahant, and persons have since testified to its reappearance. It has been variously represented to have been from fifty to seventy feet in length, as large as a barrel, and sometimes with its head elevated from six to ten feet above the water. Many persons doubt of its existence.

Nahant has for many years been a place of agreeable recreation, but it was not until about the year 1817 that gentlemen began to think of fixing their summer residence here. In that year, Hon. Thomas H. Perkins built his stone cottage on the hill near the Spouting Horn. The beautiful rustic residence of Frederic Tudor, Esq., was built in 1825; and Mr Joseph G. Joy's Log Cabin was constructed in 1841. About thirty other cottages have been erected here by gentlemen from Boston and Salem, who reside in them for three or four months, during the warm season, and then close them until another year. The stone School-house was built in 1818, and the Tuscan Chapel in 1832.

The Nahant Hotel, a spacious rustic edifice, was built in 1820. It contains a large dining room, saloon, parlors, and numerous bedrooms, for the accomodation of boarders in the warm season. It is surrounded by two piazzas, one above the other, and commands extensive and delightful views of the sea and adjacent country. Here you have a fine view of the city of Boston with its elevated dome and its slender spires; the numerous green islands scattered through the harbor; Bunker Hill, with its elevated monument of granite; the towns of Saugus, Lynn and Marblehead, with their neat white houses and hills of porphyry; Baker's Island with its twin light-houses; and the vast expanse of ocean, from which you inhale the healthy sea breeze. Near the Hotel is a bathing house, with hot and cold baths, of salt water; and a neat billiard house, built in the form of a Grecian temple.

At Nahant, in the summer season, may be found statesmen, poets, philosophers, and authors; gentlemen of wealth and leisure, and ladies of taste and refinement; with occasionally noblemen, and persons of distinction from Europe; who assemble here to exchange civilities, form agreeable acquaintances and permanent friendships; and to enjoy one of the finest pieces of natural scenery which the universe affords.

The temperature of Nahant, being moderated by sea-breezes, so as to be cooler in summer and milder in winter, than the main land, is regarded as being highly conducive to health. It is delightful in summer to ramble round this romantic peninsula, and to examine at leisure its interesting curiosities—to hear the waves rippling the colored pebbles of the beaches, and see them gliding over the projecting ledges in fanciful cascades—to behold the plovers and sand-pipers running along the beaches, the seal slumbering upon the outer rocks, the white gulls soaring overhead, the porpoises pursuing their rude gambols along the shore, and the curlew, the loon, the black duck, and the coot—the brant, with his drappled neck, and the oldwife, with her strange, wild, vocal melody, swimming gracefully in the coves, and rising and sinking with the swell of the tide. The moonlight evenings here are exceedingly lovely; and the phosphoric radiance of the billows, on favorable nights, making the waters look like a sea of fire, exhibits a scene of wonderful beauty.

But, however delightful Nahant may appear in summer, it is surpassed by the grandeur and sublimity of a winter storm. When the strong east wind has been sweeping over the Atlantic for several days, and the billows, wrought up to fury, are foaming along like living mountains—breaking upon the precipitous cliffs,—dashing into rough gorges,—thundering in the subterranean caverns of rock, and throwing the white foam and spray, like vast columns of smoke, hundreds of feet in the air, above the tallest cliffs,—an appearance is presented which the wildest imagination cannot surpass. Then the ocean—checked in its headlong career by a simple bar of sand—as if mad with its detention, roars like protracted thunder; and the wild sea-birds, borne along by the furious waters, are dashed to death against the cliffs! Standing at such an hour upon the rocks, I have seen the waves bend bars of iron, an inch in diameter, double—float rocks of granite, sixteen feet in length, as if they were timbers of wood,—and the wind, seizing the white gull in its irresistible embrace, bear her, shrieking many miles into the Lynn woods! In summer, a day at Nahant is delightful—but a storm in winter is glorious!

NAHANT HOTEL.

This celebrated and convenient Summer residence, is now open for the accommodation of BOARDERS and TRANSIENT VISITERS, under the immediate supervision of

PHINEAS DREW,

who will spare no pains to render it agreeable and satisfactory to those Gentlemen and Families who may be pleased to make it their abode for a day, or their residence during the summer months.

The Hotel is spacious and convenient, comprising a large number of rooms and every accommodation which a well regulated Watering Place can afford. The House and adjacent buildings have been put into complete repair, and a garden laid out ; it is confidently believed that nothing will be found wanting to intelligent and refined enjoyment. The table will be constantly furnished with

EVERY DELICACY OF FISH, BIRD AND VEGETABLE

which the sea and the city market can afford. A neat Billiard House and a Bath House are adjacent ; cold and hot salt baths may be had daily ; and carriages, constructed for the purpose, will be in readiness every day, to furnish the luxury of Surf-Bathing in the open sea.

A GOOD PRIVATE SCHOOL FOR CHILDREN,

will be kept on the premises, and there is a good Library in the neighborhood.

A Steamboat will ply twice a day between Boston and Nahant ; and Coaches, with careful drivers, are in constant readiness, to carry passengers to the Lynn Depot, to connect Nahant with the cities of Boston and Salem by a delightful ride over the Lynn Beach and the Eastern Rail Road.

GOOD BOATS

may be had, with experienced managers, to convey individuals or parties on the water ; and Fishing Apparatus and Bait, for Angling on the Rocks.

Horses and Carriages, and Saddle Horses,

WILL ALSO BE FURNISHED FOR RIDING ON THE BEACH.

Mr DREW proffers his thanks for the liberal patronage he has received, and hopes for its continuance.

THE HISTORY OF LYNN,

Comprising a complete, minute, and accurate account of this ancient town, from its first settlement to the present time — with a full and particular History and Description of Nahant, its scenery and geology, the laying out of the land, the usurpation of Andros, the history of the Indians, and their sports upon the beaches ; has been published by ALONZO LEWIS, in one royal octavo volume, beautifully illustrated and bound, for only one dollar.

“The History of Lynn is really a meritorious work, complete in every respect, and evincing much reading, research, and correct judgment. Indeed, we have seen no book of the kind in America that can compare with it.”

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The POEMS of Alonzo Lewis, comprising “Love,” “Forest Flowers,” “Sea Shells,” and other Poems, have been published by him in a miniature volume, elegantly printed and bound, embellished with a splendid steel engraving, for only fifty cents.

This is as mellifluous verse as ever Campbell or Rogers wrote.—*Norwich (England) Gazette.*

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